

# **CSCE NEWS RELEASE**

## **Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe**

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# **Commissioners call for Countries to Address Fascist- and Communist-Era Property Confiscations**

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**Washington, DC-** congressional Members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe today introduced identical resolutions in the House and the Senate addressing the problem of property claims stemming from Fascist- and Communist-era confiscations. Although some countries in this region have adopted restitution or compensation laws, in some instances they are not being effectively implemented. In addition, some of these laws contain discriminatory residency or citizenship provisions. Other countries have not yet addressed this subject at all.

In particular, the resolutions:

urge countries which have not already done so to return plundered properties to their rightful owners or, in the alternative, pay compensation;

call for the urgent return of property formerly belonging to Jewish communities as a means of redressing the particularly compelling problems of aging and destitute survivors of the Holocaust;

call on the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and any other country to remove restrictions which require those whose properties have been wrongfully plundered by the former Nazi or Communist regimes to reside in or have the citizenship of the country from which they now seek restitution or compensation; and

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call upon foreign financial institutions that possess wrongfully and illegally confiscated property from Holocaust victims and others to restore this property to its rightful owners.

The resolution follows a July 18, 1996 hearing on this subject convened by the Commission.

*The full texts of the resolutions and a record of the hearing testimony are available through the Commission's website at <<http://www.house.gov/csce/>> or on request by calling (202) 225-1901.*